

[illegible]

CLAIMS

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a1
1. An apparatus for protecting one or more pin connectors on a circuit board comprising:
 - (a) a housing defining an interior cavity for receiving at least one pin connector; and
 - (b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector.

- Sub 1
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the interior cavity is partitioned into a plurality of cavities.

- Sub 2
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of cavities accommodate multiple pin connectors attached to the circuit board.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector comprises an aperture for engaging a structure on the circuit board.

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5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the aperture has an irregular shape to create an interfering fit with the structure on the circuit board.

- Sub 2
6. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a mechanism to enable removal of the housing from around the pin connector.

- 6
7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the mechanism to enable removal comprises a projection extending from a surface of the housing.

- 7
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the mechanism to enable removal comprises a pair of projections extending from a surface of the housing.

2bB3

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the housing is formed of a semi-rigid material.

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10. The apparatus of claim ⁸~~9~~ wherein the housing is formed of a resin.

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~~11.~~ The apparatus of claim ⁹~~10~~ wherein the housing is formed with an injection-molding process.

~~12.~~ The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
an aperture extending through the housing and isolated from the interior cavity

~~13.~~ The apparatus of claim ¹¹~~4~~ wherein the mechanism for removably securing the housing to the pin connector comprises a plurality of apertures.

~~14.~~ An apparatus for protecting one or more electrical pin connectors on a circuit board comprising:
(a) a housing defining an interior cavity for receiving at least one pin connector;
(b) a mechanism for removably securing the housing over the pin connector;
and
(c) a mechanism for aligning the interior cavity of the housing with the pin connector.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the mechanism for aligning comprises at least one wall of the housing shaped to mimic a feature of one of the pin connector and circuit board.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the mechanism for aligning comprises at least one fin projecting from a surface of the housing to facilitate handling thereof.

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the mechanism for aligning comprises at least one aperture shaped to accommodate a feature of one of the pin connector and circuit board.

19. In a computer system having a circuit board and one or more electrical pin connectors affixed thereon, a method for preventing damage or contamination of the pin connector comprising:

(a) providing a protective cover having an interior cavity defined therein and mechanisms for aligning the protective cover with features of the circuit board and for removably securing the protective cover over the pin connector;

(b) aligning the protective cover with features on one of the circuit board and pin connector; and

(c) removably securing the protective cover adjacent the circuit board so that the pin connector is disposed within the interior cavity of the protective cover.

~~10.~~ The method of claim ~~18~~ wherein the features comprise a cylindrical projection and wherein the mechanism for aligning comprises an arcuate-shaped surface on the protective cover, and wherein (b) comprises:

(b.1) aligning the protective cover with the features so that the cylindrical projection is disposed along the arcuate surface of the protective cover.

~~20.~~ The method of claim ~~18~~¹ wherein the features comprise a cylindrical projection and wherein the mechanism for removably securing comprises an irregular shaped aperture within the protective cover, and wherein (c) comprises:

(c.1) disposing the cylindrical projection within the irregular shaped aperture to frictionally secure the cylindrical projection therein when the pin connector is disposed within the cavity.

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